

(b) whether there is any scheme with the Government to encourage private power production; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE ( BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN) : (a) Government's response in this regard will be contained in the annual budget proposals.

(b) and (c) In view of the above, answers to parts (a) (b) and (c) do not arise.

[English]

#### Consumption of Coal in Thermal Power Stations

544. SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the annual consumption of coal in thermal power stations of Uttar Pradesh State Electricity Board, station-wise;

(b) the quantum of coal supplied to these power stations during each of the last three years, till date, station-wise;

(c) the estimated shortage in coal supply noticed in these stations during the above period; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Government to supply the required quantity of coal to the said power stations of Uttar Pradesh State Electricity Board?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY) : (a) According to the data furnished by Central Electricity Authority, consumption of coal of power stations of UPSEB during the year 1997-98 is as follows :

(In '000 tonnes)

Name of Power House	Annual Consumption during 1997-98
1. Anpara	7954
2. Harduaganj	646
3. Obra	3481
4. Panki	729
5. Paricha	556
6. Tanda	889
Total	14225

(b) The quantum of coal supplied to UPSEB power houses during each of the last three years are as follows:

(In '000 tonnes)

Power Station	Coal supply during		
	1997-98 (Prov.)	1996-97	1995-96
Harduaganj	917	772	917
Panki	823	576	633
Obra	4084	3428	4063
Anpara	8039	8201	7770
Tanda	1282	1058	989
Paricha	718	574	331
Total	15863	14609	14703

(c) & (d) The materialisation of supplies against linkages to UPSEB during the year 1997-98, 1996-97 and 1995-96 were 96%, 107% and 98% respectively. The less supplies were on account of supplies being regulated against payment and also restriction imposed by UPSEB in respect of Harduaganj, Tanda and Panki power Stations.

Coal supplies to Power Sector is accorded highest priority. Supply of coal to power sector is monitored regularly by an inter-ministerial group. Appropriate corrective action is taken to step up coal supplies wherever necessary.

#### Financial Allocation to NEHHDC

545. SHRI NRIPEN GOSWAMI : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the allocation of funds to the North Eastern Handicrafts and Handlooms Development Corporation Ltd.(NEHHDC) during the last three years and proposed to be allocated during the Ninth Plan; and

(b) the details of achievements made by the NEHHDC during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHI RAM RANA) : (a) The sum of Rs. 240.00 lakhs (Rs.80.00 lakhs each every year) have been allocated to the North Eastern Handicrafts & Handlooms Development Corporation Ltd.(NEHHDC) during the last three years. During the 9th Plan period, the amount to the tune of Rs. 570.00 lakhs have been proposed to be allocated to the said corporation.

(b) The details of achievement made by the North Eastern Handicrafts & Handloom Development Corporation Ltd.(NEHHDC) during the last three years include: holding of 109 exhibitions in various parts of the country; participation in various fairs/festival including Indian Handicrafts and Gifts Fair, National Handloom Expo's,

India International Trade Fair and North East Craft Fair, etc.; besides, the five emporias of the Corporation located at Chennai, Calcutta, Bangalore, Guwahati and Shillong did their usual marketing operation.

#### Price of Rubber

546. PROF. P.J. KURIEN:  
SHRI N.N. KRISHNA DAS:  
SHRI P.C. THOMAS:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the price of Natural Rubber has steeply gone down;

(b) if so, the price of Natural Rubber during the last three years, month-wise; and

(c) whether any steps have been taken to help the farmers of Natural Rubber who are in great distress?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A statement showing domestic and international price of Natural Rubber for the last three years is enclosed.

(c) In order to arrest the declining trend in the price of Natural Rubber (NR), the State Trading Corporation, on the directions of the Central Government have procured 9596 MTs of Natural Rubber from the domestic market during 1997-98. To further improve the price situation of NR in the domestic market, the Government have recently directed the STC to procure additional 20,000 MTs of Natural Rubber from the market. A study into the cost of production of NR has also been undertaken for revising the Benchmark price of Natural Rubber.

#### Statement

#### Prices of Rubber

(Rs./Quintal)

Month	India (RSS-4)	International (RSS-3)
1	2	3
<b>1996</b>		
January	4273	4987
February	4673	5388
March	5195	5565
April	5441	5640
May	6047	5275
June	6171	4759
July	5231	4154
August	4295	4005
September	4197	4370
October	4694	4798
November	4925	5498
December	5598	5503

1	2	3
<b>1996</b>		
January	5587	5327
February	5249	5488
March	5007	5162
April	5005	4790
May	5252	4929
June	5385	4911
July	5121	4537
August	5033	4409
September	5060	4440
October	5121	4236
November	4897	4467
December	4752	4406
<b>1997</b>		
January	4700	4327
February	4286	4305
March	4199	4343
April	3979	4085
May	4483	3920
June	4224	3933
July	3937	3314
August	4298	3256
September	3892	3127
October	3495	3091
November	3389	3026
December	2970	2637
<b>1998</b>		
January	2890	2426
February	2700	2963
March	2700	2867
April	2663	2988

#### Regulatory Authority to oversee Financial Reforms

547. SHRI K.S. RAO : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Government for setting up of an autonomous new regulatory authority to oversee the implementation of financial sector reforms;

(b) if so, the details of the functions to be assigned to the proposed regulatory authority indicating *inter-alia* the necessity and the reasons for setting up of such an authority; and

(c) the time by which the proposed regulatory authority is likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN) : (a) No such proposal is under consideration at present.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.